

FUSSY WANDERERS LEAVE IT LATE

By 'NOVA'
Wycombe 4,
Corinthian Casuals 1

IT took a shock goal by Corinthian-Casuals midway through the first half of the Isthmian league game at Loakes Park to wake up a fussy, over-elaborate and often lethargic Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday.

But once they recovered from this set-back the home favourites stepped up their pace and after equalising a quarter-of-an-hour later they scored three second half goals to put the issue beyond doubt.

But this was not a very convincing win. There was too much tip-tap and not enough final punch—and it was not due only to the two newcomers in the forward line, Keith Samuels and George Pullin.

Samuels, although obviously not at peak fitness did enough to suggest that he could become a more than useful leader. Pullin, after playing a thoughtful and highly skilful prompting role in the first half, was banished to the left-wing in the second while the eager Paul Hodges took on a roving commission.

GALE HURT

This move paid dividends for Hodges cracked in two fine efforts to clinch the game.

In the first half he had suffered from his usual fate—few accurate passes, particularly after Gale had taken a nasty crack early in the first half. In the second period he moved to the left-wing and ten minutes from time coach Don Welsh ordered him to the dressing room.

It was before Gale's injury that the Casuals looked most dangerous. Surprising both the Wanderers and their supporters, they settled down to play some sensible, economic and quite attractive football and after 16 minutes they went ahead.

Clarke hit a long dropping centre into the goalmouth, where at the last minute Roystone deflected past Syrett to Bradley, who scored.

The goal was no more than the Casuals deserved against an uninspired Wycombe team, but 13 minutes later Hodges took matters into his own hands. Latching onto a fine pass from Horseman, he hared along the wing, and squared back a perfect low cross for Horseman to score.

OFF THE LINE

The brave Casuals were not dismayed and from the kick-off Syrett was drawn dangerously out of goal but John Thomas, a versatile deputy for Alistair Lewis, headed a shot off the line.

Wycombe however, gradually asserted more and more pressure. Beck kept moving menacingly upfield to link with Worley, while Pullin sent through some delightful passes. Dave Thomas kept the right flank moving, although he often neglected the left, and the hard-working Horseman tried to give Samuels good service.

The Casuals held out until midway through the second half, thanks to some stirring work by Chris Joy and goalkeeper Peter James, but after 67 minutes Hodges again upset their hopes, sprinting in from the right wing to score with a shot deflected by Moore.

Ten minutes later Samuels cottoned onto a short goal-kick, the second within a minute, and hammered it over the line, and, with nine minutes to go, hero Hodges scored number four after James had pushed out a penalty kick from Beck.

Wycombe.—D. Syrett, J. Beck, J. Thomas, D. Thomas, P. Roystone, C. Gale, L. Worley, G. Pullin, K. Samuels, T. Horseman, P. Hodges.

Corinthian-Casuals.—P. James, C. Turnbull, K. Saxby, E. Moore, C. Joy, M. Willett, K. Clarke, D. Bradley, A. Williams, D. Richardson, G. Bateson.

LATE BURST BY WYCOMBE

Wycombe 4 Cor.-Casuals 1

NOT until the last 20 minutes did Wycombe Wanderers really establish superiority over a strong Corinthian-Casuals side in this closely fought Isthmian League game at Wycombe.

Fielding a reshuffled forward line with a new centre forward, Keith Samuels, 21-year-old former Carshalton player, Wycombe took a long time to settle down. The powerfully built Casuals men, combining better in the first half, took an early lead through inside-right Bradley, star of their attack, after a defensive blunder.

Wycombe could make little impression on a close-covering defence, but one brilliant left-wing move enabled Horseman to equalise before half-time.

Wycombe left half Gale, injured early on, moved on to the wing in the second half, and when left-winger Paul Hodges, starved of support in the first half, adopted a roving commission in the middle, Wycombe began to take command.

Casuals' keeper James, in spite of an injury, kept them at bay with some courageous saves until a shot by Hodges was diverted into the goal by a defender.

Then, as Casuals' tiring defence crumpled, Samuels exploited an error to score a third, and shortly before the close Hodges added another after James had saved a penalty kick by Beck.